**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**:

1-7. (Canceled)

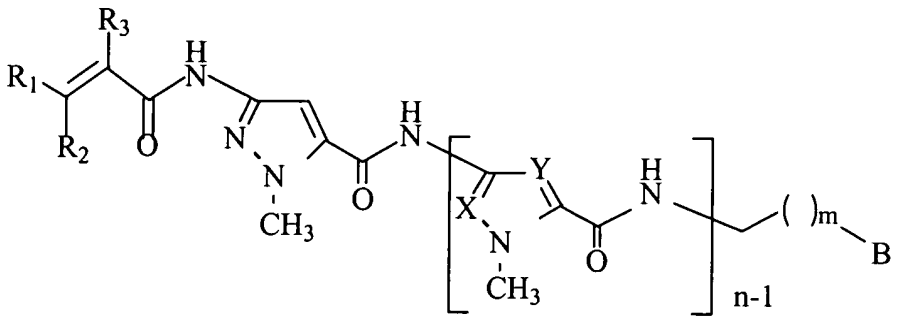
8. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents and, as the active principle, a compound as defined in claim 12.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound as defined in claim 12 for use in a method of treatment of a human or animal body by therapy.

10. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 9 for use as an antitumour agent.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a medicament for use as an antitumor agent comprising utilizing a compound as defined in claim 12.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound which is an acryloyl substituted distamycin derivative of formula



(I)

wherein:

n is 2, 3 or 4;

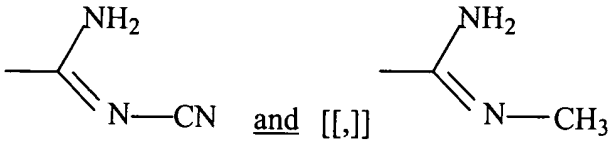
m is 1 or 2;

X and Y are the same or different and are selected, independently for each heterocyclic ring of the polyheterocyclic chain, from N and CH;

$R_1$ and $R_2$ are both hydrogen atoms;

$R_3$ is hydrogen or halogen;

B is selected from



and [[,]]

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

provided that

X and Y are not both N for the same heterocyclic ring.

13. (New) A compound according to claim 12 wherein

n is 3 or 4;

m is 1; and

$R_3$ is chlorine or bromine.

14. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(α-bromoacrylamido)-pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propioncyanamidine;

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(α-bromoacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propion-N-methylamidine;

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(α-chloroacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propion-N-methylamidine;

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(α-bromoacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propion-N-methylamidine;

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(1-methyl-3-(α-chloroacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propion-N-methylamidine;

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(α-bromoacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) imidazole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-

carboxamido) propion-N-methylamidine;

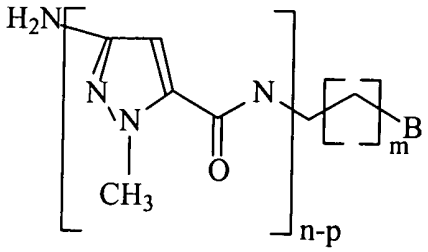
3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(α-bromoacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propioncyanamidine;

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(α-bromoacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propion-N-methylamidine;

3 - (1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-4-(1-methyl-3-(α-chloroacrylamido) pyrazole-5-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) pyrrole-2-carboxamido) propion-N-methylamidine; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

15. (New) A process for preparing a compound as defined in claim 12, which process comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula:

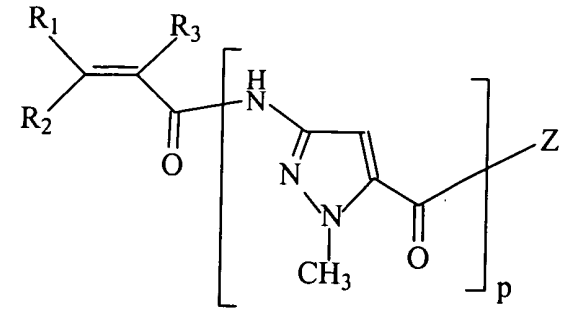



(II)

wherein n, m, and B are as defined in claim 1;

p is 0 or 1;

with a compound of formula:



(III)

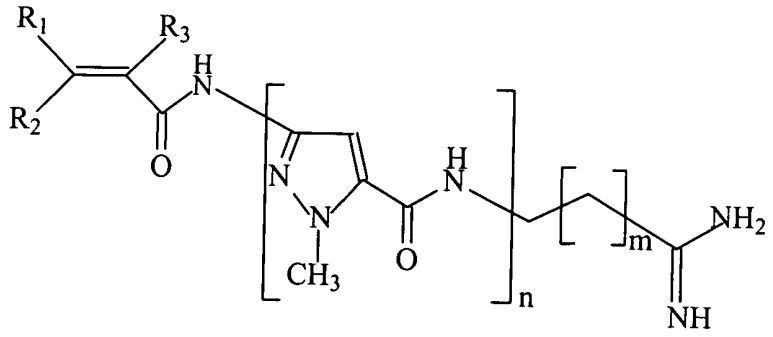
wherein $R_1$, $R_2$, and $R_3$, are as defined in claim 1;

p is as defined above;

z is hydroxy or a leaving group;

or:

(b) when B is equal to -C≡N, reacting a compound of formula:



(IV)

wherein n, m, $R_1$, $R_2$, and $R_3$, are as defined above;

with succinic anhydride; and,

(c) if desired, converting a compound of formula (I) into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.